Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /058 W
----------019216 132231Z /70
R 130817Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7861
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T TUNIS 5748

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 (IMPDET)
TAGS: MASS, TS
SUBJECT: FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE COMMENTS ON PROBLEMS
OVER MILITARY SALES TO TUNISIA

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN CHIEF USLOTU COL. THOMAS B. DE RAMUS, AND NEW FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE IN TUNIS, COL, PIERRE ARRIGHI, COL. ARRIGHI REMARKED ON AUGUST 11 THAT FRENCH RECENTLY WERE HAVING FRUSTRATING TIME DEALING WITH TUNISIAN MOD WITH RESPECT TO ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES. HE SAID THAT GOT IS CONSTANTLY PRESSING FRENCH FOR GREATER MEASURE OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, BOTH FOR BROADER RANGE OF EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVED TERMS. FRENCH ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BE RESPONSIVE, HE SAID, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SIGNING FINAL AND BINDING AGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD COST THE GOT MONEY, RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT TUNISIANS FIND SOME PRETEXT FOR DELAY AND "FURTHER STUDY".

2. COL. ARRIGHI SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK, AS FAR AS HE IS AWARE TUNISIAN MOD AT THE MOMENT IS SPENDING LITTLE IF ANYTHING ON NEW ARMS ACQUISITIONS FROM FRANCE. COLONEL SAID HE BELIEVED THIS RELUCTANCE WAS TIED TO GOT DECI-
SION TO PUT OFF ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW ACQUISITION AGREEMENTS UNTIL SAUDI ARABIA MAKES GOOD ON ITS PROMISE OF FINANCIAL SUP-
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PORT FOR TUNISIA'S MILITARY AUGMENTATION PROGRAM. ARRIGHI WAS NOT SPECIFIC AS TO HOW MUCH GOT EXPECTED FROM SAUDI ARABIA, NOR WHAT FORM THAT ASSISTANCE MIGHT TAKE.
KING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, SALES, MILITARY SALES, ATTACHES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 13-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 1607402
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Subject: FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE COMMENTS ON PROBLEMS OVER MILITARY SALES TO TUNISIA
TAGS: MASS, TS
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Type: TE
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